

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT

ON THE

PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES FOR THE YEAR 1922-23.

BY

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(BULLETIN No. 10 OF 1923.)

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STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REPORT ON THE PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES, 1922-23.

A REVIEW of the recently collected statistical details of the strength of the State's flocks and herds as at June 30th last, or thereabouts, and the pastoral and dairying production for the year ended on the same date, whilst not revealing any substantial uplift, indicates that these industries are in a satisfactory condition; specially is this so in view of the exceptionally dry period experienced throughout the State in the latter half of the period covered by the returns. Throughout this report the figures appearing in parentheses, unless otherwise stated, are those for 1921-22, inserted for comparative purposes.

STRENGTH OF FLOCKS.

Cattle.—425,811 (419,197); increase 6,614, or 1·58 per cent. Of the total number the dairying herds account for 170,362 (165,866), an increase of 4,496, or 2·71 per cent.; 135,450 (131,054) of these were either in milk or dry at the time of collection, and 34,912 (34,812) were heifers over 1 year and under 2 years of age.

Horses.—264,150 (267,639); decrease, 3,489, or 1·30 per cent. Of this number 85,636 (86,178) were described as light, and 177,076 (179,897) as draught horses, and entire horses over 2 years old numbered 1,438 (1,564).

Sheep.—6,305,133 (6,257,052); increase, 48,081, or ·77 per cent. These figures include the effective winter lambing results to the time of tailing. Of this total the number of ewes were reported to be 2,794,274 (2,709,667). The flocks within counties have decreased in the Central Division by 1,574, and Lower North 21,950; and increased in the Upper North by 63,372; South-East by 57,019; Western by 52,844; and Murray Mallee by 19,264. In the outside pastoral areas the net decrease was 120,894, the north-western section of these areas shows an increase of 12,160, and the north-eastern a decrease of 105,327 and the northern 29,707, the lambing being low in these districts. Over one-third of the sheep in the State are in flocks of 1,000 and under, and represent nearly 90 per cent. of the flock owners.

Pigs.—75,520 (87,667); decrease, 12,147, or 13·86 per cent.; 118,765 (102,854) pigs were slaughtered during the year, of which 60,525 (53,792) were for bacon and ham.

Goats.—8,765 (8,411); increase, 354. The Angora goats, mostly half-bred, numbered 1,193; 318 Angora goats were reported to have been shorn and 1,230lbs. of mohair obtained.

Other Stock.—Camels, 2,852 (3,066); mules 901 (971); donkeys, 3,897 (3,665); and ostriches, 624 (577).

The following summary shows the numbers of stock within counties and in the outside pastoral areas, with the increase over last year in parentheses:—

| Locality. | Cattle. | Horses. | Sheep. | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| | | | Total. | Ewes. |
| Within counties | 295,126 | 240,165 | 5,337,946 | 2,259,854 |
| Increase | (-6,431) | (-3,679) | (168,975) | (70,441) |
| Outside country | 130,685 | 23,985 | 967,187 | 534,420 |
| Increase | (13,045) | (190) | (-120,894) | (14,166) |
| Grand total | 425,811 | 264,150 | 6,305,133 | 2,794,274 |
| Increase | (6,614) | (-3,489) | (48,081) | (84,607) |

LAMBING.

The lambing generally was satisfactory; 2,414,221 (2,327,944) ewes were mated, and 1,395,278 (1,526,015) lambs were marked, the effective drop to time of marking averaging 57·79 (65·55) per cent. Within counties 1,192,212 (1,229,153) lambs were marked, averaging 61·11 (66·00) per cent., but in the outside pastoral country only 203,066 (296,862) were marked, giving the low average of 43·84 (63·75) per cent.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF LIVESTOCK.

(Excluding interstate trade by sea—No record).

Year ended June 30th.—The imports of sheep exceeded the exports by 168,499 and cattle by 25,237.

During the last five year the imports of sheep in excess of exports has averaged annually 80,392 and cattle 28,895. The following are the details:—

| Year ended June 30th— | Sheep. | | Cattle. | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | Imports. | Exports. | Imports. | Exports. |
| 1920-21 | 205,900 | 283,290 | 65,529 | 28,716 |
| 1921-22 | 214,191 | 125,503 | 40,090 | 6,925 |
| 1922-23 | 357,014 | 188,515 | 34,634 | 9,397 |
| Total 5 years.. | 1,438,458 | 1,036,497 | 202,282 | 57,807 |

SLAUGHTERING.

During the year ended June 30th last the slaughterings were—*Sheep and lambs*, 1,290,669 (1,208,347), increase 82,322; the slaughterings for export being 182,702 against 57,062 for the previous season. *Cattle*, 127,294 (95,323), increase 31,971. *Pigs*, 118,765 (102,854), increase 15,911.

MORTALITY.

In comparison with the previous season the reported losses of livestock from dogs and foxes, drought, natural causes, &c., were as follows:—

Cattle, 14,793 (18,076); *horses*, 8,089 (13,210); *sheep and lambs*, 291,872 (367,505).

WOOL PRODUCTION.

For the season 1922-23 6,042,667 (5,905,663) sheep were reported as shorn. The clip of wool obtained was 45,779,670 (45,498,440) lbs., averaging sheep and lambs 7·58 (7·70) lbs. per fleece; sheep, 8·75 (9·02) lbs.; lambs, 2·57 (2·74) lbs. Including wool fellmongered and on skins the total production is estimated at 54,929,801 (54,038,262) lbs. in the grease, the value of which, on the average export value per pound of 17·76d. (11·95d.), would be £4,064,805 (£2,690,655).

Summary for Five Seasons.

| Item. | 1918-19. | 1921-22. | 1922-23. | Average Five Years. |
|--|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Sheep and lambs shorn No. | 6,238,676 | 5,905,663 | 6,042,667 | 5,998,162 |
| Wool obtainedlbs. | 46,250,832 | 45,498,440 | 45,779,670 | 45,758,726 |
| Weight per fleecelbs. | 7·41 | 7·70 | 7·58 | 7·63 |
| Fellmongered and on exported skinslbs. | 9,696,276 | 8,539,822 | 9,150,131 | 8,676,392 |
| Estimated wool— | | | | |
| Productionlbs. | 55,947,108 | 54,038,262 | 54,929,801 | 54,435,118 |
| Value.....£ | 3,396,456 | 2,690,655 | 4,064,805 | 3,266,437 |

DAIRYING.

The dairying industry during the previous season made substantial headway, and the results of last season indicate that the advance then made has been a little more than maintained. The herds now number 170,362 (165,866), an increase of 4,496. On June 30th, 92,376 (90,867) were reported to be in milk and 43,074 (40,187) dry. Heifers under 2 years old numbered 34,912 (34,812).

The production of butter is just above and that of cheese just below the record outputs of the previous year, the quantities being butter 14,646,632 (14,565,599) lbs. and cheese 3,261,565 (3,392,400) lbs.

The production of bacon and ham was 5,002,199 (5,089,424) lbs., decrease 87,225lbs.

The average yearly market prices for dairy produce were—Butter (factory), 1s. 8½d. (1s. 4½d.); cheese, 10d. (8½d.); bacon, 1s. 1½d. (1s. 1¾d.); and ham, 1s. 5d. (1s. 4d.) per lb.

The estimated value of all dairy products (butter, cheese, bacon, ham, pork, &c., and milk consumed as such) was £1,979,465 (£1,839,178), an increase of £140,287. The oversea exports of butter were 3,185,346 (3,897,152) lbs. valued at £268,223 (£242,662), or 20d. (15d.) per lb. In addition 342,380 (200,949) lbs. of cheese, valued at £13,290 (£6,256) were exported to oversea countries.

FIVE YEARS' DAIRYING PRODUCTION.

| Item. | 1918-19. | 1921-22. | 1922-23. | Average Five Years. |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Dairy stock— | | | | |
| Over 2 yearsNo. | 103,230 | 131,054 | 135,450 | 118,851 |
| HeifersNo. | 32,577 | 34,812 | 34,912 | 33,566 |
| Butterlbs. | 10,444,789 | 14,565,599 | 14,646,632 | 12,272,927 |
| Cheeselbs. | 2,412,388 | 3,392,400 | 3,261,565 | 2,682,246 |
| Pigs killed (Total)No. | 135,408 | 102,854 | 118,765 | 107,165 |
| Bacon and hamlbs. | 6,567,394 | 5,089,424 | 5,002,199 | 5,328,401 |
| Production£ | 1,546,650 | 1,839,178 | 1,979,465 | 1,881,004 |
| Butter exportslbs. | 1,103,760 | 3,897,152 | 3,185,346 | 2,851,661 |
| Butter exportsvalue £ | 79,519 | 242,662 | 268,223 | 242,525 |
| Butter exportsvalue per lb. | 1/5½ | 1/3 | 1/8 | 1/8½ |

REGISTRATION OF BULLS.

Under the Dairy Cattle Improvement Act, 1921, 4,686 bulls were registered on October 31st last. Total fees received—£2,265. The

number of registrations in each division within district council areas and proclaimed hundreds were—Central, 2,361; Lower North, 509; Upper North, 683; South-Eastern, 486; Western 186; and Murray Mallee, 461.

MARKET PRICES OF STOCK.

Increases are noted in the average market prices of cattle and sheep for the year, the yearly average for prime bullocks rising from £11 7s. 6d. to £14 9s.; prime cows, £7 12s. 6d. to £8 19s.; prime merino wethers, £1 3s. 6d. to £1 17s.; prime crossbred wethers, £1 2s. to £1 11s. 9d.; but there was a drop in the prices of pigs, baconers falling from £4 7s. 6d. to £4, and porkers from £2 14s. 6d. to £2 9s.

A better understanding of the position will be obtained from the following summary showing the averages for each six-monthly period in contrast with the annual averages:—

Stock Prices.

| Period. | Bullocks. Prime. | Sheep (Prime Wethers). | | Pigs. | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| | | Merino. | Crossbred. | Baconers. | Porkers. |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| July-December, 1921 | 10 11 0 | 0 19 6 | 0 19 0 | 5 0 0 | 3 2 6 |
| January-June, 1922 | 12 4 0 | 1 7 6 | 1 5 0 | 3 15 0 | 2 6 6 |
| July-December, 1922 | 13 19 6 | 1 13 6 | 1 6 6 | 4 0 6 | 2 7 0 |
| January-June 1923 | 14 19 6 | 2 0 6 | 1 17 0 | 3 19 6 | 2 11 0 |
| Year 1921-22 | 11 7 6 | 1 3 6 | 1 2 0 | 4 7 6 | 2 14 6 |
| Year 1922-23 | 14 9 0 | 1 17 0 | 1 11 9 | 4 0 0 | 2 9 0 |

VALUE OF PRODUCTION.

The total value of the pastoral production is estimated to be £5,895,976 (£4,148,057), and dairying, £1,979,465 (£1,839,178). The average for the last five years is—Pastoral, £5,355,938; dairying, £1,881,004.

W. L. JOHNSTON, Government Statist.
Statistical Department, Adelaide, December 5th, 1923.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—LIVESTOCK STATISTICS.

Return showing the Number of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, and Pigs in each County and Division of the State for the Year 1922-23, in Comparison with the Year 1921-22.

| County and Division. | Cattle. | | | | Horses. | | Sheep and Lambs. | | Pigs. | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | Total. | | Dairying. | | 1921-22. | 1922-23. | 1921-22. | 1922-23. | 1921-22. | 1922-23. |
| | 1921-22. | 1922-23. | 1921-22. | 1922-23. | | | | | | |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| I. CENTRAL DIVISION— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adelaide | 36,352 | 35,195 | 27,761 | 27,412 | 27,362 | 24,665 | 145,237 | 141,896 | 16,316 | 15,293 |
| Carnarvon | 929 | 870 | 525 | 532 | 1,316 | 1,172 | 43,149 | 44,765 | 229 | 250 |
| Eyre | 7,661 | 8,165 | 4,408 | 4,824 | 5,609 | 5,717 | 133,320 | 123,607 | 1,808 | 2,005 |
| Fergusson | 9,402 | 9,301 | 5,190 | 5,553 | 14,696 | 14,855 | 159,329 | 154,127 | 2,512 | 2,253 |
| Gawler | 11,064 | 10,984 | 7,198 | 7,345 | 12,089 | 11,557 | 95,004 | 106,567 | 4,377 | 3,684 |
| Hindmarsh | 15,271 | 16,183 | 10,524 | 11,395 | 6,095 | 6,027 | 176,634 | 182,022 | 6,782 | 5,328 |
| Light | 14,993 | 14,262 | 10,220 | 10,235 | 13,394 | 13,176 | 119,506 | 110,948 | 5,559 | 4,620 |
| Sturt | 14,067 | 14,469 | 8,676 | 9,241 | 7,055 | 6,985 | 204,934 | 211,607 | 4,504 | 3,509 |
| II. LOWER NORTH DIVISION— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burra | 4,363 | 4,806 | 2,218 | 2,571 | 3,471 | 3,458 | 253,396 | 246,728 | 698 | 633 |
| Daly | 10,240 | 9,894 | 6,150 | 6,408 | 18,382 | 18,541 | 166,302 | 151,119 | 3,776 | 3,175 |
| Kimberley | 2,601 | 2,544 | 1,027 | 1,192 | 1,448 | 1,433 | 132,369 | 142,892 | 303 | 243 |
| Stanley | 12,304 | 12,240 | 7,826 | 8,120 | 18,189 | 18,006 | 248,759 | 246,237 | 4,672 | 4,047 |
| Victoria | 14,980 | 14,665 | 7,720 | 8,225 | 16,099 | 16,494 | 247,056 | 238,956 | 4,213 | 3,776 |
| II. UPPER NORTH DIVISION— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blachford | 3,036 | 2,905 | 586 | 518 | 743 | 900 | 50,332 | 65,649 | 216 | 209 |
| Dalhousie | 11,748 | 11,090 | 6,511 | 6,684 | 6,909 | 6,967 | 169,426 | 171,632 | 2,343 | 1,715 |
| Derby | 122 | 54 | — | 10 | 68 | 88 | 23,691 | 21,050 | 1 | — |
| Frome | 14,969 | 13,311 | 7,498 | 7,045 | 9,979 | 9,790 | 185,307 | 194,811 | 2,827 | 2,156 |
| Granville | 5,700 | 4,613 | 1,386 | 1,287 | 1,176 | 1,193 | 105,142 | 120,532 | 418 | 216 |
| Hanson | 4,250 | 3,856 | 625 | 515 | 1,001 | 993 | 77,606 | 89,168 | 422 | 247 |
| Herbert | 4,391 | 3,687 | 1,242 | 1,364 | 1,430 | 1,296 | 110,228 | 130,357 | 231 | 161 |
| Lytton | 1,628 | 1,264 | 91 | 29 | 157 | 161 | 68,486 | 62,389 | 2 | — |
| Newcastle | 8,689 | 6,679 | 1,904 | 1,785 | 1,894 | 1,814 | 91,407 | 85,085 | 532 | 432 |
| Taunton | 3,621 | 3,210 | 146 | 96 | 357 | 346 | 72,315 | 76,639 | 38 | 12 |
| IV. SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buckingham | 1,944 | 1,869 | 1,191 | 1,279 | 2,953 | 2,872 | 136,222 | 150,476 | 481 | 362 |
| Cardwell | 1,233 | 1,475 | 302 | 305 | 644 | 610 | 17,365 | 20,096 | 111 | 97 |
| Grey | 34,638 | 35,682 | 17,047 | 16,838 | 9,927 | 9,785 | 414,620 | 440,755 | 6,874 | 8,173 |
| MacDonnell | 1,891 | 1,800 | 895 | 897 | 1,841 | 1,708 | 161,964 | 167,640 | 258 | 236 |
| Robe | 4,912 | 5,085 | 2,447 | 2,575 | 3,504 | 3,474 | 337,629 | 345,852 | 430 | 362 |
| V. WESTERN DIVISION— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bosanquet | 226 | 137 | — | 10 | 108 | 123 | 46,000 | 46,329 | — | 6 |
| Buxton | 729 | 914 | 240 | 302 | 1,687 | 1,668 | 5,598 | 4,312 | 342 | 191 |
| Dufferin | 329 | 320 | 172 | 171 | 1,452 | 1,439 | 11,412 | 11,620 | 221 | 171 |
| Flinders | 3,641 | 3,771 | 2,048 | 2,267 | 4,786 | 4,634 | 152,795 | 158,269 | 815 | 607 |
| Hopetoun | 290 | 315 | 157 | 190 | 641 | 686 | 36,044 | 32,292 | 161 | 102 |
| Jervois | 3,842 | 3,708 | 2,179 | 2,175 | 5,878 | 5,717 | 78,826 | 70,925 | 1,193 | 582 |
| Kintore | 387 | 407 | 194 | 235 | 1,029 | 1,003 | 24,951 | 26,873 | 276 | 166 |
| Le Hunte | 588 | 689 | 344 | 460 | 1,894 | 1,964 | 1,287 | 2,215 | 449 | 346 |
| Manchester | 1,300 | 943 | 296 | 211 | 385 | 536 | 87,059 | 104,481 | 90 | 75 |
| Musgrave | 1,199 | 1,321 | 681 | 713 | 2,191 | 2,165 | 149,867 | 158,300 | 336 | 207 |
| Robinson | 1,325 | 1,426 | 801 | 896 | 3,902 | 3,886 | 93,512 | 106,065 | 864 | 625 |
| Way | 1,002 | 917 | 580 | 549 | 2,695 | 2,578 | 19,527 | 21,961 | 684 | 541 |
| York | 900 | 832 | 117 | 80 | 207 | 227 | 1,300 | 17,380 | 17 | 11 |
| VI. MURRAY MALLEE DIVISION— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albert | 4,940 | 5,148 | 2,840 | 3,123 | 6,286 | 6,250 | 37,968 | 38,576 | 2,304 | 1,657 |
| Alfred | 5,191 | 5,064 | 2,576 | 2,740 | 6,894 | 7,156 | 46,770 | 54,880 | 2,356 | 2,180 |
| Buccleuch | 2,358 | 2,626 | 1,462 | 1,745 | 4,281 | 4,263 | 11,535 | 14,805 | 1,303 | 1,047 |
| Chandos | 3,414 | 3,164 | 1,851 | 1,840 | 6,122 | 6,118 | 31,782 | 36,188 | 1,479 | 1,075 |
| Hamley | 848 | 733 | 494 | 499 | 1,653 | 2,021 | 32,733 | 26,042 | 334 | 210 |
| Russell | 11,567 | 11,835 | 6,564 | 6,901 | 3,445 | 3,090 | 101,228 | 98,560 | 3,011 | 2,252 |
| Young | 482 | 698 | 199 | 252 | 520 | 558 | 52,042 | 64,271 | 67 | 93 |
| SUMMARY. | | | | | | | | | | |
| CENTRAL DIVISION | 109,739 | 109,429 | 74,502 | 76,537 | 87,616 | 84,154 | 1,077,113 | 1,075,539 | 42,087 | 36,942 |
| LOWER NORTH DIVISION | 44,488 | 44,149 | 24,941 | 26,516 | 57,589 | 57,932 | 1,047,882 | 1,025,932 | 13,662 | 11,874 |
| UPPER NORTH DIVISION | 58,154 | 50,669 | 19,989 | 19,333 | 23,714 | 23,548 | 953,940 | 1,017,312 | 7,030 | 5,148 |
| SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION | 44,618 | 45,911 | 21,882 | 21,894 | 18,869 | 18,449 | 1,067,800 | 1,124,819 | 8,154 | 9,230 |
| WESTERN DIVISION | 15,758 | 15,700 | 7,809 | 8,259 | 26,855 | 26,626 | 708,178 | 761,022 | 5,448 | 3,630 |
| MURRAY MALLEE DIVISION | 28,800 | 29,268 | 15,986 | 17,100 | 29,201 | 29,456 | 314,058 | 333,322 | 10,854 | 8,514 |
| Total counties | 301,557 | 295,126 | 165,109 | 169,639 | 243,844 | 240,165 | 5,168,971 | 5,337,946 | 87,235 | 75,338 |
| Outside of counties | 117,640 | 130,685 | 757 | 723 | 23,795 | 23,985 | 1,088,081 | 967,187 | 432 | 182 |
| Grand total of State | 419,197 | 425,811 | 165,866 | 170,362 | 267,639 | 264,150 | 6,257,052 | 6,305,133 | 87,667 | 75,520 |
| Increase | | +6,614 | | +4,496 | | -3,489 | | +48,081 | | -12,147 |